Christian Community

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To Pastors and Local Social Action Chairmen

With this issue of *Christian Community* we are sending you a free copy of the *Roll Call on the 83rd Congress*, prepared by *Congressional Quarterly* for ten denominations having a concern for intelligent, effective, Christian citizenship. We feel this merits careful consideration by the people in your congregation. Additional copies may be secured from the Commission at ten cents each, or $7.50 per hundred.

We invite you to pay especial attention also to the resources and suggestions for the observance of World Order Day, replacing the Message sent in former years.

How One Church Featured The United Nations

By Robert W. Olewiler

A plan to elicit maximum interest and participation of a local congregation on behalf of a Synod-wide emphasis and Institute on the United Nations and World Order met with success at Grace Church, Washington, D. C., this past February.

Supervised by the chairman of the congregational Committee on Christian Social Action, the plan called for the Youth Fellowship, the Women's Guild and the Churchmen's Brotherhood to set aside their monthly meetings prior to the opening of the Synod Institute for a discussion of the subject, the United Nations and World Order. In addition, the chairman of the committee, at the outset of the monthly plan, during the Church School Assembly, outlined the program and spoke about man's past efforts at achieving world peace. At the conclusion of the monthly program the pastor tied together in a sermon the results of the discussion within the three organizations. The Youth Fellowship discussed "How the UN Operates" and the Guild and Brotherhood discussed "The Strength and Weakness of the UN."

For wider participation in and more

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MISSIONARIES APPLAUD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

By Otto F. Artopoeus

What our children's children are apt to say about us is hardly our immediate concern. Still, it is heartening to believe that just possibly, as they gather over their supercharged coffee cups, they may be chatting about some very successful assaults made in our time upon the ancient enemies: hunger, misery and despair. In the backward glance, these efforts on our part, though often marred by selfish interest and faulty vision, may yet speak favorably for us.

No one to date has hit upon the perfect formula for curing all the ills of mankind, the oldest ones in particular, but it would appear that we have come closer than ever before in history to finding the right combination which could cure a good many of them. The combination—scientific know-how plus money plus human understanding—is so simple it is a wonder it has not been tried much sooner. Wherever it has been put to the test, this beneficent blending of brain, heart and pocketbook has proved surprisingly effective.

There are now literally hundreds of organizations attempting to use this

Christian missionaries might have had difficulty entering this Buddhist temple in Thailand, even to spray it with DDT. The WHO Malara Control team does it—while the priest looks on with approval. Thus aims first advanced by the churches may be served through the UN.

combination in the hope of helping peoples in the underdeveloped areas of the world to help themselves. Some are religious, others semi-religious, still others philanthropic and educational. All are busily engaged in the same work and most, if not all, share the same goal. There is plenty of room for all. In fact, the job to be done is so big and so urgent that everybody has "to get into the act" in order to get it done.

Christians Welcomed Point Four

Necessarily, much of the credit for this present, extraordinary interest in world uplift must go to the church. We ought not forget that. The honest experts, those deeply involved in the weighty, humanitarian programs of both the United States and the United Nations, have been quick to attribute to the church the wonderful idea of technical assistance. They admit that long before January 20, 1949, when as a fourth point in his inaugural address President Truman advised that the United States was embarking upon "a bold, new program" for sharing its blessings, the church was shouldering the burdens of the hungry, the miserable, and the desperate of the world. What was new—and indeed bold—about the President's program was that he was enlisting a whole nation, the mightiest on the globe, in a work which heretofore had been carried on almost exclusively by the missionaries of the church. For the first time it looked as though the job could finally and fully be done!

Not unexpectedly, the leaders of the church enthusiastically welcomed this governmental offer of help (and even now, as Point Four goes farther and farther into political eclipse, it is the church groups that have expressed the most worried concern about it.) This almost limitless aid was not considered competition, and for that matter, still is not. If anything, it was cooperation of the finest type, fraught with undreamed of possibilities for the whole world, and as such the church could support it heart in hand. Now Technical Cooperation (as a part of the program of the Foreign Operations Administration under Harold Stassen), with its developmental programs in most of the free countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, finds the church one of its best friends—and vice versa. Hardly is it surprising that out of this greatly intensified meeting of the world's need has grown a remarkable and unprecedented appreciation for the efforts of the church.

In this highly stimulating picture of goodwill, sorry to say, Point Four has more often than not overshadowed the work of the United Nations agencies. But we must make no mistake about it, these international agencies have not been sleeping on the job. Tackling whopping problems, often in conjunction with Point Four, they have contributed ably to the cause. The now famous World Health Organization has collaborated in some excellent public health projects with the more adequately financed United Nations Children's Fund, and both W.H.O. and U.N.E.S.C.O. have gladly joined forces with the United States in solving economic and social problems of major proportions, with the U.N. supplying personnel mainly and the U. S. funds for essential supplies and equipment. Through the International Labor Organization, both foreign and U. S. labor experts have worked for improved working conditions and increased production. The Food and Agriculture Organization has sought to increase foodstuffs in countries where unenlightened peoples are starving needlessly. Not at all unusual is it to find two or more of these international agencies moving in on the same problem, each hitting it from a different angle and thereby assuring a more over-all success.

Both Churches and Government

To those who are inclined to worry about too much competition in the field of human uplift, it can be said that the church has little to fear on this score. There is infinitely more work to be done than it can ever do alone. But the real and basic reason for not worrying is simply that no other organization, and least of all a government, can ever duplicate the plus quality the church gives to its work of redeeming the world. That quality, of course, is the one which ultimately spells success for any project no matter how small—or big! In this current world-wide uplift drive the role of the church has automatically become one of showing others how the job must be done.

A good case in point is the problem of leprosy in India. The church has pioneered in this work, establishing leprosaria far and away the finest in the land. The only trouble is that they are too inadequate for the millions of leprosy victims roaming the highways and the byways of that vast country. Admittedly, this is one problem too big for the church, and if it is ever to be solved completely, it will have to be done by government and other secular agencies whose resources are less limited than those of the church. Consequently, the church has had to content itself primarily with showing others how the problem of leprosy should be tackled, but in so doing, has made an unparalleled contribution to the cause of human welfare, one that even the enemies of the church have had to take their hats off to. Multiply such a case many times over and you come close to the true story of the church at work in a world of need.

What will eventually happen to the efforts of both the United States and the United Nations in helping the peoples of underdeveloped areas to help themselves is not at all certain. But one thing is certain: the church is in this work for keeps, and it is the church's No. 1 business to see to it that these allies stay interested too. They have the funds and the know-how, the brain and the pocketbook. In turn, the church can and must help supply the third ingredient, human understanding. When that happens, the combination becomes a really terrific one.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Reverend Otto F. Artopoeus, presently pastor of First Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was formerly a missionary in India.

The Reverend Robert W. Olewiler, pastor of Grace Church, Washington, D. C., is also chairman of the committee on Christian Social Action of Potomac Synod.

OASI OPENED TO CLERGY

Action taken on the closing day of the 83rd Congress provides Social Security coverage for more than ten million additional workers. Included are about 250,000 ministers, classified as "self-employed," with the additional privilege of electing or rejecting coverage. Such a decision, however, must be made *within two years* by filing a certificate *along with or before* the filing of an income tax return for *the second year* in which the individual receives an income of $400 or more from services as a minister. Pension and insurance benefits are increased, and retired workers allowed to earn as much as $1200 a year without impairing their benefits. Tax, or premium payments must be made now on the first $4200 of the earned income.

Speaking of Books

People who are interested in the technical assistance efforts of the United Nations, and of what has been known as the American Point 4 program will want to read Dr. Eugene Staley's *The Future of Underdeveloped Countries.* It is a Harper book, 394 pages of solid text, the results of a study made for the Council on Foreign Relations between 1952 and 1954. The author is Senior Economist at Stanford Research Center. He has written other books in the field of international politics and economics.

This study is concerned with the problem of helping underdeveloped countries achieve successfully economic, political, and social development at a time when the old pattern of colonialism is falling apart and a new Communist imperialism threatens to take its place. Some of these countries would like to achieve overnight the kind of industrial development it has taken advanced countries centuries to achieve. And the advanced nations cannot waste time in giving assistance, for the Communist threat is a real one.

There are three parts to the book. The first part inquires concerning "What is successful development?" and reviews the history of the development of "advanced" countries. This is followed by four chapters on "The Communist Path to Development," which show the Communist methods of agitation, organization and propaganda, and discuss the implications of the Communist challenge in underdeveloped areas for the policy of the U. S. and of the free world.

The third part, on "Democratic Paths to Development" points out the problems with which assistance programs must be concerned over a long period of time: such problems as agrarian reform, capital formation, population controls, raw materials and industrialization. These problems are squarely faced.

Here is a good defense of technical assistance programs as offered through the U.N., through Point 4 and through private efforts. The immensity of the problem is seen when we know that there are 1,660,000,000 people in non-Communist countries and that two thirds of these are in underdeveloped countries. (There are 740,000,000 people under Communist influence, and two thirds of them also are in underdeveloped countries.) Concerning Point 4 the author says: "The type of program symbolized by Point 4 is by all odds the most affirmative concept that has been introduced into American foreign policy in this generation. If it is adequately supported—by public funds, by the growth of private investment and trade, and by related actions that demonstrate America's sincere interest in the progress of all people toward self government, and toward cooperation based on mutual respect—then it will also prove the most effective defensive agains tthe Communist threat."

Should nations giving aid look for gratitude? "We should not even be concerned about gratitude," says Dr. Staley. "Gratitude is pleasant as a spontaneous by-product of a mutually satisfactory relationship, but it certainly should not be one of our primary objectives. We hope that our aid program will generate friendship for the United States, and they will if they are conducted in the right spirit; but we certainly must not set out with the notion that we can buy friendship . . . We are out to get results in terms of the kind of a world we should like to live in. We want to influence the course of social evolution, the capablities of men to produce and consume, the attitudes and the skills and the social structures which make it possible for men to govern themselves and to cooperate in peace with other nations."

The importance of administrative personnel is indicated, too, in these lines: "The selection of representatives with suitable personality and a proper training and briefing on attitudes conducive to good human relations, as well as on the cultural backgrounds of the areas in which they work, is most important. We need men like Chaucer's student: "Gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche"."

This word is important too: "How well democracy works will be judged by the peoples of underdeveloped countries largely by what they think it means for themselves. For example, the overwhelming majority in the underdeveloped world is nonwhite. What they read, or experience when they travel, about racial discrimination in the United States is likely to affect them more deeply than comparative data on standards of living. The fact that there is now a very decided improvement under way in the United States in this matter in contrast to our past bad record, strengthens the prestige of the American type of democracy and makes it less vulnerable to Communist and other attacks. . . . The way democracy works in the treatment of colonial peoples, and in the fostering of their political, economic and social progress is likely to have an even greater bearing on its prestige in the underdeveloped world than the way it works in Europe or America."

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A very timely publication, in the light of present discussions about the UN, is *Revising the Charter: Is It Possible? Is It Wise?* by Ernest A. Gross. This 18-page reprint of an article in *Foreign Affairs* is available free from Discussion of Foreign Affairs, 58 East 68th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

How One Church Featured UN

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effective promotion of the plan, the congregational Committee on Christian Social Action was augmented by the chairman of the Citizenship Committee of the Guild, the chairman of the Social Service Department of the Brotherhood, and the president of the Youth Fellowship.

Some of the favorable results follow:

1—A great majority of all congregational leaders attended the Synod Institute session.

2—Forty other persons of the congregation attended the Synod Institute session.

3—Those in attendance felt they got the most out of the Institute session because of the preparation afforded them by the monthly program.

4—Those unable to attend the Synod Institute session were grateful for the opportunity to learn something about the subject through the monthly program.

5—The monthly plan provided the congregational Committee on Christian Social Action with a practical vehicle to promote a vital subject and engender interest in it.

6—Overtures on behalf of further study sessions within the congregation resulted.

7—Serious consideration is being given by the Consistory and the Board of Christian Education to expedite their business at regular meetings so at least an hour might be set aside for discussion of such vital subjects in cooperation with such a monthly program.

The Grace Church Committee recognizes that this plan could be used as a follow-up to Synod Institutes as well as advance preparation.

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COMMISSION PLANS AHEAD

Following its practice of meeting in various centers of the denomination, the Commission on Christian Social Action held its fall meeting at Burlington, Iowa, September 14 to 16.

The Commission received the reports of staff members and committees. It was announced that the Commission would be represented at the fall meetings of eight synods—by Mr. Schlegel at Pacific Northwest, California, Nebraska and Southern, by Mr. Klemme at Rocky Mountain and New York, and by Mr. Marcus at Lancaster and Lehigh. Plans are under way for intensive field work in these eight "zoned" synods.

Although most of the business sessions were held in the Burlington Hotel, the Commission took time to participate in a conference at First Church, the Reverend R. G. Beck, pastor, to which the clergy and laity of Burlington and of Iowa Synod were invited. Following a panel discussion of the place of labor, management, and agriculture in working *"Toward a Responsible Society,"* and a fellowship dinner, the featured speaker of the evening was Dr. Gerhard Brennecke, director of the Berlin Missionary Society. Dr. Brennecke, who attended the World Council of Churches Assembly at Evanston this summer, has his office in the East Zone of Germany. His subject, appropriately enough, was "Germany Between East and West."

The mid-winter meeting of the Commission will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 3 and 4, immediately following the Conference on Christian Commitment and Christian Community, in which it is cooperating with the Commissions on Evangelism and Stewardship.

See the UN In Films

A good way to get acquanted with the organization and program of the United Nations is to use recent sound films and film strips. The Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids (1505 Race Street, Philadelphia 2, and 1720 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis 3) can supply the following useful films:

Of Human Rights. 20 minutes. Rental $4. An incident involving economic and racial prejudice is used to dramatize the importance of bringing to the attention of the world's people their rights as human beings, as these are set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Searchlight on the Nations. 20 minutes. Rental $3. A good introduction to public hearings and private committee sessions of the UN, with insights into some of the things which are being done to break down ancient barriers, and to build peace and a better world for all people.

The following film strips, with reading manuals, are also offered, free to E and R churches, by the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids:

Aims of the United Nation's Charter. 20 frames.

The Economic and Social Council. 69 frames. Tells about the operation of the UN's technical assistance program.

The United Nations Department of Public Information, United Nations Building, New York, N. Y., will gladly send information concerning UN publications and concerning films which may be rented from any of the UN depositories throughout the country. We recommend using one or more of the dozen "screen magazines" (sound newsreels) which were available early in 1954. Each 10-minute reel rents for $2.50, and shows the work of agencies like FAO, WHO, or other technical assistance programs in the constructive efforts being made in many lands. New reels are being released periodically.
These are the present titles:

Screen Magazine No. 13—Help for Pakistan
Screen Magazine No. 14—A Village Awakens (in Greece)
Screen Magazine No. 15—Thailand's Streams of Life
Screen Magazine No. 16—Afghanistan Moves Ahead
Screen Magazine No. 17—Indonesia Builds a Better Life
Screen Magazine No. 18—The World Health Organization at Work
Screen Magazine No. 19—Health in Greece
Screen Magazine No. 20—Birthday in Eritrea
Screen Magazine No. 21—Philippines—Social Progress
Screen Magazine No. 22—Philippines—Economic Progress
Screen Magazine No. 23—Danish Children Build Greek Schools

See the UN in Person

This issue of *Christian Community* offers you information on technical assistance, written from the viewpoint of one who has had experience on the mission field as well as in a parish at home. There are suggestions as to some of the visual resources you can use in education concerning the United Nations. The story of how one congregation emphasized the UN will, we trust, stimulate you to similar ventures, whether in connection with a synodical, national, or community effort or merely on your own.

To get an even more vivid acquaintance with the personalities and the problems of the UN, as well as other timely issues in the field of international relations, why not plan to attend the United Nations—World Order Seminar, October 11 to 13? Sponsored by the Commission on Christian Social Action in cooperation with the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, your only cost apart from travel to and lodging in New York is your registration fee of $6.00 which includes the seminar dinner and a packet of materials. Whatever your local program, it will be better if you take advantage of this privilege!

To register, write to the Commission on Christian Social Action at once.